

THE HERALD.

JOHN P. BARRETT, Editor.
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 13, 1884.

National Democratic Ticket.

FOR PRESIDENT,
GRIVER CLEVELAND,
Of New York.
FOR VICE PRESIDENT,
THOMAS A. HENDRICKS,
Of Indiana.

CONVICT LABOR.

Governor Knott's Letter.

Governor Knott has written a letter in this county to which we wish most respectfully to call the attention of the people of Ohio and Muhlenberg counties.

The question is not one of law and order, nor is it one of comfort and relief to Penitentiary convicts, but it is a question whether the inconsiderate act of the Legislature, passed by the manipulation of hired lobbyists in the last hours of the Legislature, shall be permitted and enforced by the Executive, to break down and utterly ruin an industry that has been built up by the capital of some of our citizens and by the labor of a class of men who are as honest and as deserving and entitled to as much consideration as any class of labor or profession.

A coal miner is neither better nor worse than the farmer, the lawyer or the preacher, and his profession is entitled to the same protection as any other. It would have been far better to hire them out for farm hands or street cleaners in the large cities than to put the whole batch of them in two counties and break down one industry, and that, too, one of the greatest industries we have in this country, an industry that so many people are dependent on for fuel, and so many laborers are dependent on for the living of themselves and families. The miners are not a set of transient, worthless foreigners, but many of them the very best class of citizens, many of them by hard labor have bought or built them nice, comfortable homes, near some of the many mines in this and Muhlenberg counties, and are good, industrious citizens and law-abiding men. Some, perhaps 30 per cent, are young men, and can easily move off and find work in other States where they don't come in contact with degraded convict labor.

The Governor says: "The grievance is greatly exaggerated by our want of familiarity with the circumstances." The fact is, the grievance is greatly exaggerated by the Governor's want of familiarity with the circumstances.

We know that the honest miner's occupation is gone. We know that he must take up his wife and little ones—abandon his now worthless home and move off to some other State. We know that the thousands of dollars invested by honest and liberal men, who made investments to build up their country must now suffer the great depreciation in the value of their property.

The Governor says he is advised that no convict labor is to be employed in our immediate vicinity. This is begging the question. Their cheap labor breaks down our work and does not and will not cheapen the price of coal. All of it will be in the hands of a ruthless monopoly—a single coal company—and they can fix the price and will fix it at a higher rate than it is now, and then, too, we can tell the Governor that the convicts are to be brought to our country. We know it; maybe he don't. The Central Coal company have 600 of them, and they must bring some of them to their Rander mines, 5 miles from this county seat, half a mile of McHenry and 2 miles from Beaver Dam. Then, too, Governor, suppose they don't bring them here. Muhlenberg county is in Kentucky and is entitled to some consideration. Central City is a nice, flourishing town of 500 inhabitants—clever, honest, law-abiding citizens. That town and that community is entitled to some consideration. The miners there have a right to live; they ought not to be driven off from their homes, even if they don't live in this "vicinity."

It is simply silly to talk about the business of the miner "not being affected" or "their wages impaired." They will simply have no business to be affected and no wages to be impaired. A few of them perhaps can get employment if they will take it in teaching convicts how to mine coal. No miner can or will work in the same mine with convicts unless he works for nothing, and if they are not discharged at once it will be only a short time before they will be, and the sign will be posted over all the mines "no honest man need apply." "Steal something and then we will take you in."

Governor, you have no right to work these men in any incorporated city. Look at the law, page 174

Acts of the Legislature. You won't find it in the Index. For some reason it was left out, probably so as not to attract public attention. You will see that the law as fixed up by the lobbyist is very awkwardly drawn, and says that convicts engaged in mining may be quartered in an incorporated town but not worked in it, and your Lessees are violating this law now. Central City is an incorporated town, and they are working the convicts right in the town, in the corporate limits, and under the law they can't be worked in two miles of it.

Have them taken away, Governor, and let Mr. DuPont work them on his street railroad in Louisville. There is just as much law for it and more reason and justice; there they work against the general laborer and here they are breaking down a special and valuable industry.

The Governor says that the contract expires on the 4th of October next. If this is so, then no great harm is done unless it is renewed, but it is not the Governor's mistake in this, the contractors claim that it can be renewed at their option.

The working of convicts is an outrage on the people of Ohio and Muhlenberg counties. It must in some way be stopped. We are a law abiding people; we claim to be a religious and moral people; we do not see why we should be singled out for this legal outrage.

Governor, you say we must submit "cheerfully." We can't do it cheerfully, Governor. We may submit doggedly and unwillingly. A few State Guards sent down might make us cheerful.

THE Democrats of Massachusetts opened the Presidential campaign last Friday by a double ratification meeting in Boston. Faneuil Hall and the Temple were crowded to overflowing to hear the speakers.

GEO. BUTLER will take the stump and advocate the election of Gen. Butler to the Presidency. His first speech will be made in New York August 30th.

NEW YORK City and Brooklyn experienced a severe shock from earthquake on last Sunday. This is nothing compared to the one they will have in November when Cleveland and Hendricks are elected.

DICK HOCKER, in a good speech at the Court-house yesterday afternoon, uttered this sound and characteristic sentiment: "I will not be the Sheriff of the Democratic party, but the Sheriff of the people of Ohio county."

HON. W. W. CULBERTSON, the Republican Representative in Congress from the Ninth District of Kentucky, attempted suicide at his room in Washington City, Wednesday, July 30th, by shooting himself with a pistol. He fired five shots, two of which took effect in the head and inflicted very serious wounds. It was thought at first that he would die, though, reports since say he will recover. The cause is assigned to mental troubles, brought about by a protracted "spree."

THE Poughkeepsie (New York) News says: "Among the hundreds of prominent Republicans in Poughkeepsie and Dutchess county who have signified their intention of voting for Mr. Cleveland there is none more prominent than Mr. A. J. Akin, President of the Pawling National Bank. He has been a zealous Republican, and his espousal of the cause of Mr. Cleveland is rendered more significant than it otherwise would be from the fact that he was the Garfield elector of the Dutchess Congressional district in 1880. Mr. Akin will vote for Mr. Cleveland because he has the utmost confidence in his honesty and executive capacity and because he is a safer man for the country than Blaine."

If it were an honest and meritorious act on the part of the State officials and those having charge of the working of the convicts to send them down to our country to break up the homes and run off the free and honest miners from our country, why were they not sent down in open day and by the usual direct and shortest route. Instead of that they are brought in the night, carried over four different railroad lines around by Bowling Green and Russellville, about 100 miles farther than by the C. O. & S. W. The right of way was given them against all trains, and all tracks kept clear, the usual signal not given when they landed at Central City, as if they were a superior class of citizens to populate our country. Order them back to the Penitentiary, Governor, where they belong, and where they were sentenced to be worked.

To the demonstration that Mr. Blaine not once but repeatedly sold his influence as Legislator and Speaker to corporations for money, or money's worth, they retort that Gov. Cleveland once had trouble with a woman. To the demonstration that Blaine disgraced himself as

Secretary of State by secret relations with the "Peruvian Company" and misusing his official authority during the disability of President Garfield to interfere in South American affairs, to the injury of the country's interests and honor, they only reply that Gov. Cleveland once had trouble with a woman. To the demonstration that Blaine was nominated by the efforts of the Star-rovers and other Treasury plunderers, and that these are now the chief managers of his canvass, they again have no other reply to make than that Gov. Cleveland once had trouble with a woman. —Chicago Herald.

The Gentleman From Louisville.

In our last issue we referred to one of the candidates for Congress as "The gentleman from Louisville, Mr. McKay." We referred to the matter then because Mr. McKay was just beginning a canvass of the county, and we wished to give him a chance to be heard upon the matter. He referred to it in his speeches and also called on us and claimed Barlowtown as his place of residence, as well as that of his parents before him. We cheerfully gave him the benefit of publicity to his statement. We mentioned him as "the gentleman from Louisville" because we had heard him thus spoken of two years ago when a candidate for the same position, also in the present canvass and had seen the matter discussed in one or more newspapers. From what we had heard, seen and known of Mr. McKay we thought the appellation appropriate. We frequently see Mr. McKay in Louisville, find his law office at 345 Fifth street, where he keeps his law library, desk, account books, and where he will usually be found six days out of seven. He spends as a general thing, but one day in a week, viz: Sunday, in Barlowtown, has no office or place of business there, and but little practice there, but has a residence there where his family remain. He does his banking business in Louisville instead of Barlowtown, is attorney for one bank there at least, and for firms and corporations there, and appears in the list of Louisville lawyers in City Directory, and in short, is to all intents and purposes as much a fixed lawyer or business man of Louisville as any other business man there who has a suburban or out-of-town residence. Nearly or quite all of his clients, firms, corporations, etc., live or have their headquarters in Louisville, and from them he derives his revenue, and there his interest centers, and while, technically speaking, he is a resident of the district, his whole business interests are located in Louisville, and if elected Louisville District would virtually have two Representatives. We think Mr. Willis is enough for the Louisville District, and we want a Representative whose whole interests, professionally, financially and otherwise are centered in this district. We have candidates before us whose every interest are located in this district, and centrally located, too.

A Card.

I am just informed that it has been said in the Kimmel-Hocker campaign that I was defeated by Asbury for the Republican nomination for the Register of the Land Office, in 1883. I desire to say that I was never at any time a candidate for that nomination, nor did I ever contemplate being a candidate; nor did I ever speak of such a thing to any one; nor did I ever give my permission; nor was I ever asked to give my permission to any one to suggest my name to any delegation or voter in or out of the convention, in connection with the position. The author of any statement inconsistent in the slightest degree with what I have written above, is a liar and he who repeats or has repeated this statement is a dupe and a blabbermouth. I do not consider it dishonorable to be defeated by a colored man and would not regard this statement, but that I believe it was made to injure me before Democrats and illiterate Republicans. C. M. PENDLETON.
Aug. 7, 1884.

CONVICTS IN MINES.

Gov. Knott Replies to the Protest Concerning the Working of Convicts in Mines in Southern Kentucky—the Document in Full.

FRANKFORT, KY., August 8. The following is a copy of an official letter which Gov. Knott wrote last night in answer to a protest concerning the working of convicts in the Southern part of the State:

STATE OF KENTUCKY, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, FRANKFORT, AUG. 7, 1884.—Sir: Yours of the 5th inst., protesting against the working of convicts in coal mines and on railroads, and asking me, as the Chief Executive of the Commonwealth, to have them all kept within the walls of the penitentiary, has just reached me, and in reply I would respectfully say that while I

most sincerely regret the necessity which compels even the temporary employment of that class of labor in such branches of industry I have no power to comply with your request.

The Legislature by an act approved May 3, 1880, directed the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund to let and hire the labor of all convicts who were then or might thereafter be in the penitentiary in excess of 600, except certain specified classes, to be employed upon public works within the State, such as the construction or improvement of railroads, canals, levees and water-works. In pursuance of the provisions of that act the Commissioners entered into a contract with C. R. Mason & Co., hiring to that firm until the 1st day of October, 1881, the labor of all the convicts who were or might be in the prison during that time, and expressly stipulating that those of them who could be lawfully employed outside of the walls might be used on such works as were authorized by law. To those works the present General Assembly, by an amendment to the act of 1880, has added mining, making it entirely legal for the contractors, under the terms of their agreement with the Commonwealth, to employ such portion of the convict labor for which they have contracted, and which they are permitted by law to use outside the walls in that occupation as they may deem proper.

The policy of such a disposition of the convict labor of the State or the circumstances which led to its adoption it is now too late to discuss. It is sufficient that it is employed, under a solemn contract, in strict pursuance of the provisions of the public statute. With that contract, or the legal rights of the contractors under it, I have no authority to interfere; nor has any one else. On the contrary, the honor of every good citizen of the Commonwealth is pledged to its strict observance. The contractors have thus far complied with their stipulations to the letter, and the dignity of the State, as well as the majesty of its laws, demands that they shall be protected in every right for which they have legally bargained. To this every just and honorable man must agree. It is the dictate, indeed, of common prudence for any illegal interference with their vested rights would be a menace to every one who looks to the law for protection. Any forcible interruption of the peaceful prosecution of their work is a high crime under the statute, and all who are willfully instrumental in the escape of a convict under their charge are made guilty of felony. I have no special duty to see that it is faithfully executed, and to the discharge of that duty I invoke the assistance of yourself and of any other good citizen of the Commonwealth.

As I have already said, I deprecate as much as any one can the circumstances which have rendered it necessary to employ any portion of our convict population outside the prison walls, and in this I express the sentiment of every colleague I have on the Board of Commissioners. For these circumstances, however, I am in no wise responsible. On the contrary, I have done everything in my power to bring about the speediest possible correction of the evil of which you complain. In my message to the General Assembly I called attention to the most distinct and emphatic terms to the pressing necessity of an increase in our penitentiary accommodations as the only means of avoiding the employment of convicts outside without incurring still more serious evils, and I am glad to say that, in pursuance of my suggestions, steps were taken by that body for the erection of a branch prison, which, when completed, will offer all the relief you ask. But in the meantime there are certain facts with which you are, perhaps, not entirely familiar, which should not be overlooked or forgotten. While we have over twelve hundred convicts, our present penitentiary affords accommodations for only about six hundred of them, and facilities for the profitable employment of only about two hundred and fifty. Supposing, therefore, that I, or the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, had the power to annul the existing contract with Mason & Co., and to order all the convicts back to the prison walls—which we have not—there would still be presented the alternative of employing a portion of them on works outside for the time being, or of bringing about a condition of things at which common humanity would revolt in unutterable horror. The spectacle of over twelve hundred human beings, comprising all ages and conditions of criminal life from the headless boy, confined for some petty infraction of the penal code, to the heavy-headed villain, who plumes himself upon the commission of every crime that a diabolic iniquity could suggest or a fiendish depravity could execute, all put in quarters scarce sufficient for half their number, ill fed, ill clothed, reeking in filth, festering with disease, encouraging each other in vices too brutal to mention, would be a blot upon our civilization too hideous to contemplate. The only method of escaping such a disgusting stigma would be to reduce their number by a sweeping exercise of the pardoning power, which would thoroughly destroy the efficacy of our penal laws, and entail upon us a calamity from the effects of which the public morals would not recover for years.

I have not the pleasure of knowing you personally, but I take it, from the tone of your letter, that you are not only an intelligent and honorable citizen, but a gentleman of generous and humane impulses. As such, I submit to you the alternative—which do you say would be the better course to pursue—aside, like honorable men, by our lawful contract; have our convicts support themselves by their own work, even if it must be outside the prison walls for a while, instead of being supported in idleness by the honest, laboring taxpayer, endure the evils we have for their remedy shall be completed, or bring upon our State and upon humanity the disgrace of such a condition of

things as must otherwise ensue? I trust you will place this matter in its true light before your people, who I have no doubt will cheerfully abide by the laws when they are fully advised as to the facts. Their grievance is greatly exaggerated perhaps by their want of familiarity with the circumstances, as I am advised that no convict labor is to be employed in their immediate vicinity, and its employment will not affect their business or impair their wages in the slightest degree. In any event I shall expect from them as good citizens a cheerful support of legal authority, which it is my highest duty to you and to them to maintain. I am, very respectfully,
J. P. ROBERTSON.

The Lessee of Convict Labor at Central City Violates the Statute.

The Convict Labor Act, approved May 3d, 1880, and amended May 10th, 1881, contains these provisions: 1st. "That no one convicted of murder, rape, attempted rape, or arson, or who has a longer term of five years to serve shall be so let or hired; and no convict shall be worked within the corporate limits of any city or town, nor quartered within two miles thereof, nor within one-fourth of a mile of a private residence, unless by the written consent of the resident."

2d. "That the provision in regard to quartering convicts shall not apply to those engaged in mining." (Public Acts, page 174, session of 1881-4.) Gov. Knott, the Lessee, and Mr. DuPont, for the Central Coal Company, must have overlooked the peculiar phraseology of these provisions. The amendment gives no power to work the convicts in a mine which may be situated in an incorporated town or city.

The second proviso gives the right to quarter mining convicts in incorporated town or city, or adjacent to such towns and cities, or as near as may be to a private residence with or without the consent of the resident. By both provisions the convicts are prohibited from working within the corporate limits of any town or city.

Central City is an incorporated town of nearly 300 inhabitants, and by the provisions of the act is exempted from the presence of convict labor within its limits, and to introduce such labor into the mines at that point is a clear violation of the statute, which should not be permitted to be so grossly and flagrantly violated as the Central Coal Company.

The Governor should place this matter in the hands of his constitutional advisers, as from the time of its recent publication it seems not to have fully comprehended the meaning of the law.

The act itself is an unfortunate piece of legislation, and the sooner it is modified by official construction the better. The people are no more bound to respect a violated law because the parties to the violation are the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, the Lessee, and the Central Coal Company, than they would be if the parties were horse thieves or gamblers.

That the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund should have contemplated the idea of quartering convicts with that of working convicts can only be accounted for on the supposition that they did not fully comprehend either the phraseology or the effect of this law. We will not say that the Commissioners understandingly made themselves a party to so great a fraud, by a tortuous construction of a plain act, yet the logic of the situation places them in the miserable position of running cheek-by-jowl with a powerful corporation, who would for personal aggrandizement, rob the honest, free laborer of the means of providing the necessities of life for his wife and children.

THE WORKINGMAN'S FRIEND.

Mr. DuPont Drives Out Honest Coal Miners and Fills Their Places With Convicts.

In this city there are published two papers, owned by Mr. B. DuPont, proprietor also of a couple of street car lines. These papers, though published by the greatest enemy in the State of the laboring classes, and run for the

sole purpose of boosting up Mr. DuPont's financial schemes, have been boasting for months of their loyalty to the working classes. With all their talk about the down-trodden working-men, never one word have they said about the manner in which Mr. DuPont's poorly paid, starving drivers and conductors are treated. Never a word have they said about how Mr. DuPont's spotters are allowed to club these poor drivers, and how the drivers are prevented from prosecuting the spotters by threats to refuse them of the little pitances paid for their hard labor.

But the street car and newspaper drivers and conductors are not the only ones who suffer by Mr. DuPont's greed for gain. In Muhlenberg county Mr. DuPont owns and runs a number of coal mines. The poor miners working for him have been receiving barely enough pay to buy bread. The price paid them was so low that it could not be reduced unless to have the poor fellows work for nothing. It did not take the gentleman long to find a way out of his trouble. At the same time his afternoon paper is issuing a supplement called the Labor Supplement. Mr. DuPont is now glad to find in itself of the poorly paid miner and put in his place labor that will cost still less.

A short time ago large barracks were erected near the coal mines. The people round about began to get alarmed. Was Mr. DuPont going to reduce the pay of his miners and send for armed men to prevent their striking. Worse than that.

Last night a telegram was received by a gentleman in this city stating that 100 convicts had arrived and taken quarters at the barracks. To-day they are to enter the mines to take the places of the poor starvings on whose account for whose benefit Mr. DuPont's two papers are published.

There are hundreds of men in the neighborhood who are ready and willing to work, but must stand aside for convict labor, because it is cheaper. The people are aroused, and indignation meetings will be held. Men who have labored to keep bread in the mouths of their starving families will be compelled to sell their little homes because they can obtain no labor there. Those who remain will have their shanties seized by the servants of the poor convict, and leave the homes as it strikes the fated folk of the wretch who has not pitched enough coal to suit Mr. DuPont's owners. The two papers owned and published in this city will soon have to provide themselves as the organs of the workingman, and tell of his misfortunes. But they will hardly speak about how hundreds of human beings starved in Muhlenberg county, because Mr. DuPont has given their positions to convicts. Louisville Times.

BIRDS.

ROBERTSON.—To the wife of Mr. Anthony Robertson of Ulster, Daviess county Ky., July 27th, 1884, a daughter for Eva.

Burial Notes.

It has been quite a while since I have given the readers of the HERALD some items from this place. Your writer has been busy and part of the time being unwell, defined writing; however, will endeavor to write a few lines in order that the readers may know that we are still surviving and enjoying at the present very good health.

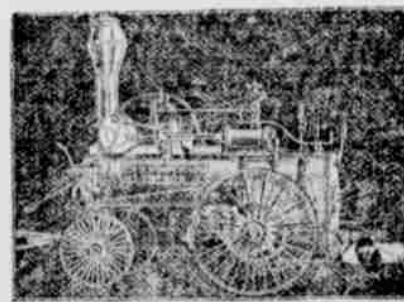
The election passed off quietly, and Buford, true to the tenets of the Democratic party, carried off the barrels of the day by giving Hocker and Felix greater majorities than she has formerly given the nominees of the Democratic party. The Democrats are elated over the idea, and are almost confident that they are standing upon the threshold of a great National victory; not in the history of twenty years were the prospects so brilliant and flattering—the Chicago convention is predicted as an omen to victory—never in the history of the world was there such an assemblage of orators, sages and statesmen, and by such a body a platform was adopted which cannot help from being sanctioned by every true American.

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